

China is saber-rattling to try to keep us from protecting our national interests. Maybe they are trying to keep us from assisting our friends in Taiwan. Perhaps China is testing our new President to see what he is made of.

President Bush should make it clear, we will defend our national interests. We will make sure Taiwan can defend itself; we should sell Taiwan the Aegis cruisers and the Patriot missiles they need to defend themselves.

Madam Speaker, China should not test America. It is in China's interest to return that plane and its crew to us immediately.

ELIMINATING RED TAPE AND OFFERING FULL HEALTH CARE CHOICES FOR MILITARY DEPENDENTS

(Mr. RYUN of Kansas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, the dedication of our military spouses is invaluable, and I want to ensure that they are treated right with respect to health care.

Currently, military dependents who use one of the military's choice-related health plans do so believing that they can choose their doctor. But when they become pregnant, they can be forced to change from a civilian provider to an on-base doctor even for delivery.

It is essential that a woman be comfortable with her doctor for this experience. To force a woman to change doctors at a time as critical as pregnancy is unacceptable.

That is why I am introducing legislation to eliminate burdensome red tape and to put women back in charge of their pregnancy-related health care plans.

If we want to continue to attract the high-quality people for our armed services, the people who defend this country and are defending us now, we must make sure they have all the health care provisions they should be entitled to.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that she will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record votes on postponed questions will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules, but not before 6 p.m. today.

CHESAPEAKE BAY OFFICE OF NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION AUTHORIZATION

Mr. GILCHREST. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 642) to reauthorize the Chesapeake Bay Office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 642

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CHESAPEAKE BAY OFFICE.

(a) REAUTHORIZATION OF OFFICE.—Section 307 of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Authorization Act of 1992 (15 U.S.C. 1511d) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 307. CHESAPEAKE BAY OFFICE.

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—(1) The Secretary of Commerce shall establish, within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, an office to be known as the Chesapeake Bay Office (in this section referred to as the ‘Office’).

“(2) The Office shall be headed by a Director who shall be appointed by the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the Chesapeake Executive Council. Any individual appointed as Director shall have knowledge and experience in research or resource management efforts in the Chesapeake Bay.

“(3) The Director may appoint such additional personnel for the Office as the Director determines necessary to carry out this section.

“(b) FUNCTIONS.—The Office, in consultation with the Chesapeake Executive Council, shall—

“(1) provide technical assistance to the Administrator, to other Federal departments and agencies, and to State and local government agencies in—

“(A) assessing the processes that shape the Chesapeake Bay system and affect its living resources;

“(B) identifying technical and management alternatives for the restoration and protection of living resources and the habitats they depend upon; and

“(C) monitoring the implementation and effectiveness of management plans;

“(2) develop and implement a strategy for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration that integrates the science, research, monitoring, data collection, regulatory, and management responsibilities of the Secretary of Commerce in such a manner as to assist the cooperative, intergovernmental Chesapeake Bay Program to meet the commitments of the Chesapeake Bay Agreement;

“(3) coordinate the programs and activities of the various organizations within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Chesapeake Bay Regional Sea Grant Programs, and the Chesapeake Bay units of the National Estuarine Research Reserve System, including—

“(A) programs and activities in—

“(i) coastal and estuarine research, monitoring, and assessment;

“(ii) fisheries research and stock assessments;

“(iii) data management;

“(iv) remote sensing;

“(v) coastal management;

“(vi) habitat conservation and restoration; and

“(vii) atmospheric deposition; and

“(B) programs and activities of the Cooperative Oxford Laboratory of the National Ocean Service with respect to—

“(i) nonindigenous species;

“(ii) estuarine and marine species pathology;

“(iii) human pathogens in estuarine and marine environments; and

“(iv) ecosystem health;

“(4) coordinate the activities of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration with the activities of the Environmental Protection Agency and other Federal, State, and local agencies;

“(5) establish an effective mechanism which shall ensure that projects have undergone appropriate peer review and provide other appropriate means to determine that projects have acceptable scientific and technical merit for the purpose of achieving maximum utilization of available funds and resources to benefit the Chesapeake Bay area;

“(6) remain cognizant of ongoing research, monitoring, and management projects and assist in the dissemination of the results and findings of those projects; and

“(7) submit a biennial report to the Congress and the Secretary of Commerce with respect to the activities of the Office and on the progress made in protecting and restoring the living resources and habitat of the Chesapeake Bay, which report shall include an action plan consisting of—

“(A) a list of recommended research, monitoring, and data collection activities necessary to continue implementation of the strategy described in paragraph (2); and

“(B) proposals for—

“(i) continuing any new National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration activities in the Chesapeake Bay; and

“(ii) the integration of those activities with the activities of the partners in the Chesapeake Bay Program to meet the commitments of the Chesapeake 2000 agreement and subsequent agreements.

“(c) CHESAPEAKE BAY FISHERY AND HABITAT RESTORATION SMALL WATERSHED GRANTS PROGRAM.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Chesapeake Bay Office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (in this section referred to as the ‘Director’), in cooperation with the Chesapeake Executive Council, shall carry out a community-based fishery and habitat restoration small grants and technical assistance program in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

“(2) PROJECTS.—

“(A) SUPPORT.—The Director shall make grants under this subsection to pay the Federal share of the cost of projects that are carried out by entities eligible under paragraph (3) for the restoration of fisheries and habitats in the Chesapeake Bay.

“(B) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share under subparagraph (A) shall not exceed 75 percent.

“(C) TYPES OF PROJECTS.—Projects for which grants may be made under this subsection include—

“(i) the improvement of fish passageways;

“(ii) the creation of natural or artificial reefs or substrata for habitats;

“(iii) the restoration of wetland or sea grass;

“(iv) the production of oysters for restoration projects; and

“(v) the prevention, identification, and control of nonindigenous species.

“(3) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—The following entities are eligible to receive grants under this subsection:

“(A) The government of a political subdivision of a State in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, and the government of the District of Columbia.

“(B) An organization in the Chesapeake Bay watershed (such as an educational institution or a community organization)—

“(i) that is described in section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of that Code; and

“(ii) that will administer such grants in coordination with a government referred to in subparagraph (A).